

PATENT APP. NO. 10/035,214
ATTY. DOCKET NO. 53394.000548

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO JULY 28, 2005 OFFICE ACTION

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 24 with the following replacement paragraph:

The opened tow 312 preferably is pulled out of the forming jet assembly 304 by a vacuum draw roll 322, such as the combining drum 800 described elsewhere herein in conjunction with ~~Figure 8~~ Figure 9, or a similar drawing device. The opened tow 312 exits the forming jet assembly 304 at a tow break angle Θ_B , which may be adjusted by altering the position of the vacuum draw roll 322 (or similar device), or, more preferably, by adjusting the height and angle of the forming jet assembly 304 using adjustable mounts 324. Increasing the tow break angle Θ_B increases the drag on the opened tow 312 and thereby increases the amount of stretch that the vacuum draw roll 322 imparts on the opened tow 312. Greater stretch reduces the basis weight of the opened tow 312 that is pulled onto the vacuum draw roll 322. The tow forming jet 304 preferably is aligned so that its outlet is tangential to the vacuum draw roll 322 or slightly above a tangent to the vacuum draw roll 322. In a preferred embodiment, the outlet of the tow forming jet 304 is located at a tangent to the vacuum draw roll 322 to about 1 inch above a tangent to the vacuum draw roll 322. In a more preferred embodiment the outlet of the tow forming jet 304 is less than about 0.75 inches above a tangent to the vacuum draw roll 322, and in a most preferred embodiment, the outlet of the tow forming jet 304 is located less than about 0.5 inches above a tangent to the vacuum draw roll 322.